

**PATENTS**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant     Donald G. Wheatley

Atty Docket No. 1584-003

Serial No.     New Patent Application

For:     **UNIVERSAL VEHICLE TIE-DOWN RAILS  
AND METHOD**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This information disclosure statement is in compliance with Applicant's duty of candor, under 37 CFR 1.56.

The following are the only references which Applicant is aware of and believes may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

U.S. Patent No. 5,476,349

U.S. Patent No. 5,827,024

U.S. Patent No. 5,904,458

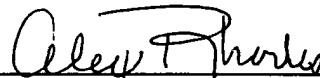
U.S. Patent No. 6,176,658

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other

material information exists. Nor shall the filing be construed as an admission against interest in any manner (1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25).

A copy of each of the above references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alex Rhodes", is written over a horizontal line.

Alex Rhodes, Reg. No. 26,797

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Dated: 11-13-03

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1**Complete if Known**

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Donald E. Wheatley
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1584-003

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 5,476,349	12-19-1995	M.C. Okland	
		US- 5,827,024	10-27-1998	B.E. Davenport	
		US- 5,904,458	05-18-1999	D. Bundy	
		US- 6,176,658	01-23-2001	J. Rowe	
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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